reproached the Chancellor for his failure to respond in any way/ and pointed out that everything he wanted might be obtained by peaceable means; how Hitler had told him that the Sudeten-land represented 'the last of his territorial ambitions in Europe/ and that in any case he had no wish to include non-Germans in the Reich.

Members of Parliament listened intently to this narrative of events, to which there seemed only one possible conclusion— that Prance, in accordance with treaty obligations would go to Czechoslovakia's assistance, and England, for the same reason, to France's. The conclusion, ever more inevitable, was awaited with mounting excitement. When would he say them—the words expected and dreaded? As in Budget speeches, often delivered by him there, he had droned on and on, postponing the moment when he told them what they all longed to hear— money which must be paid, so now he postponed coming to the heart of the matter—blood which must be shed. They waited and waited, and while they were waiting Sir John Simon passed a note to the Prime Minister. He paused to read it, smiled. It was their reprieve. A conference had been arranged at Munich; Mussolini was going, Daladier was going, he was going. Out of their places they leapt, waved order papers, some weeping, some making incoherent noises; some too overcome with emotion even to rise or cheer or wave a paper, perhaps offering silent prayers of thankfulness.[5] Clubman that night, again not quite sober, only mumbled his admiration; Trafalgar, or any other historical parallel, inadequate to express his

sense of the greatness of the occasion. 'Not Gladstone in his most compelling hour had ever won a triumph like that/ the *Daily Telegraph* wrote of the reception accorded to Mr. Chamberlain's speech.

Mr. Chamberlain returned from the Munich Conference not only with news that the conflict between Germany and Czecho-slovakia had been peaceably settled, though on terms less than

[6] Mr. Harold Nicolson came in for some criticism because he described the behaviour of his fellow Members of Parliament on this occasion as a case of *mass hysteria'.